

albinism in East Africa, Mr. Speaker, condemning their murder and mutilation, and advocating remedies to bring an end to this heinous and misguided behavior.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, our national debt is setting new records each week, and Washington cannot ignore it any longer. Unless we take action, the debt could bring our recovery to a standstill, and raise interest rates for our families. Allowing excessive spending to continue is not an option.

In 2010, we must draw the line and put fiscal discipline at the top of our agenda. This Congress should develop and execute a plan to start paying down the debt and ensure sustainable spending levels for the long term. We can and should continue smart investments that create jobs, develop our critical infrastructure, and help new industries grow.

But at the same time, we have to start cutting waste and demanding efficiency. Government programs should be actively searching for ways to do more with less. And if they won't, Congress has to step up and do it for them.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, the legacy of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., lives on in our day.

As we witness the horrible tragedy of Haiti on television and we become more attuned to the heartbeat, sympathy, anxieties, and hopes of America, the House of Representatives might call to mind the image Dr. King used. His prophetic call was for people everywhere to transcend race, class, nation, and religious differences to embrace a vision of a "World House."

Here and now, let us do our part to embrace his image and work to fulfill his dream for a universal dwelling on Earth as it is in heaven. Lord, we want

a place for every person in our society where all have equal justice.

We pray for a home where conflicts may be resolved in a spirit of love and forgiveness, without violence, and wounds can be healed.

Lord, let Dr. King's vision and promise for the future resonate in every human heart until it becomes a way of living, living up to Your design for us.

This we pray now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HEALTH CARE REDUX

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as the health care negotiations have droned on for months behind closed doors led by REID and PELOSI without the participation of the American people, Republicans and even many Democrats, what do we have to show for it?

We have the Louisiana Purchase, the Corn Husker Kickback, backroom deals with special interests, protection of the trial lawyers, and, finally, an embarrassing deal with the unions that allows them to be exempt from a 40 percent excise tax on "Cadillac" health care plans that the rest of the Nation will be subject to.

To my colleagues: Have you no shame?

What happened to the President's promises of open debate on C-SPAN and inviting Members of Congress to come to the White House to go over the health care bill "line by line"?

I submit today that we scrap the flawed documents under consideration and immediately begin a bipartisan discussion on how to truly reform health care in this country in a way that does not involve higher taxes, higher costs to policyholders, and even more governmental interference in our daily lives.

GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD
WHITMAN HIGHLIGHTS THE
PROBLEM WITH BACKROOM
HEALTH CARE NEGOTIATIONS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Congress and this administration continue pushing a job-killing health care takeover. Brokered in back rooms, the bill includes \$518 billion in new job-killing taxes that will hurt small businesses, and squeezing Medicare threatens senior citizens.

Backroom deals in Washington is politics at its worst, and it is high time that the American people were given a seat at the negotiations table.

The President promised the American people eight different times health care would be public. C-SPAN has offered to broadcast the negotiations. In Politico, former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman highlights Speaker PELOSI's brushoff of the request, saying that the President stood for a number of things while on the campaign trail.

I encourage the Speaker to encourage the President to keep his promise of open discussions by letting C-SPAN show the American people what is going on behind closed doors. We need change in Washington.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

AMERICANS SEE MEDIA AS BIASED, LIBERAL, TOO POWERFUL

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans see the media as biased, liberal, and too powerful, according to a new Rasmussen survey.

Just two in ten Americans say reporters try to offer unbiased coverage of political campaigns. More than seven in ten say reporters try to help the candidate they want to win.

Furthermore, a majority of voters believe, "The average reporter is more liberal than they are." And two-thirds think the media have too much power and influence over government decisions.

This is the fourth public opinion poll in the last few months that has found that Americans don't trust the media. If the national media want to restore Americans' confidence, they should report the facts and not tell people what to think.

PUT GOVERNMENT IN ITS PLACE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to the 10th Amendment, any power not specifically granted to the Federal Government is reserved to the people and to the States.

Those that demand government take over health care have yet to provide a constitutional example for such government oppression. Further, it doesn't